

ANOTHER NEW SPECIES OF *BOYDAIA* (SPELEOGNATHIDAE; ACARINA)
FROM AUSTRALIA

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SUMMARY

A second species of *Boydaiia* (Speleognathidae) from Australia is described. It was found freeliving with cetoparasitic mites on a rat from Mount Glorious, Queensland.

While my previous paper (A new genus and species of Speleognathidae (Acarina), from South Australia, Trans. Roy. Soc. S. Aust., 1953, 76, 82), was in the press, another new species of *Boydaiia* was discovered amongst a lot of Trombiculid and Laelaptid mites collected from a rat, *Rattus assimilis*, from Mount Glorious, Queensland, on 6 August 1951 by Dr. E. H. Derrick.

Unfortunately it was represented only by a single specimen, but while being closely related to *Boydaiia striatus* (Crossley), it is abundantly distinct in many characters. While all previously known species of Speleognathidae, except *Speleognathus australis* Wom. are parasitic in the nasal secretions of birds and frogs (*S. australis* will probably be found to affect birds also), the occurrence of this new species externally on a rat is probably accidental and not natural.

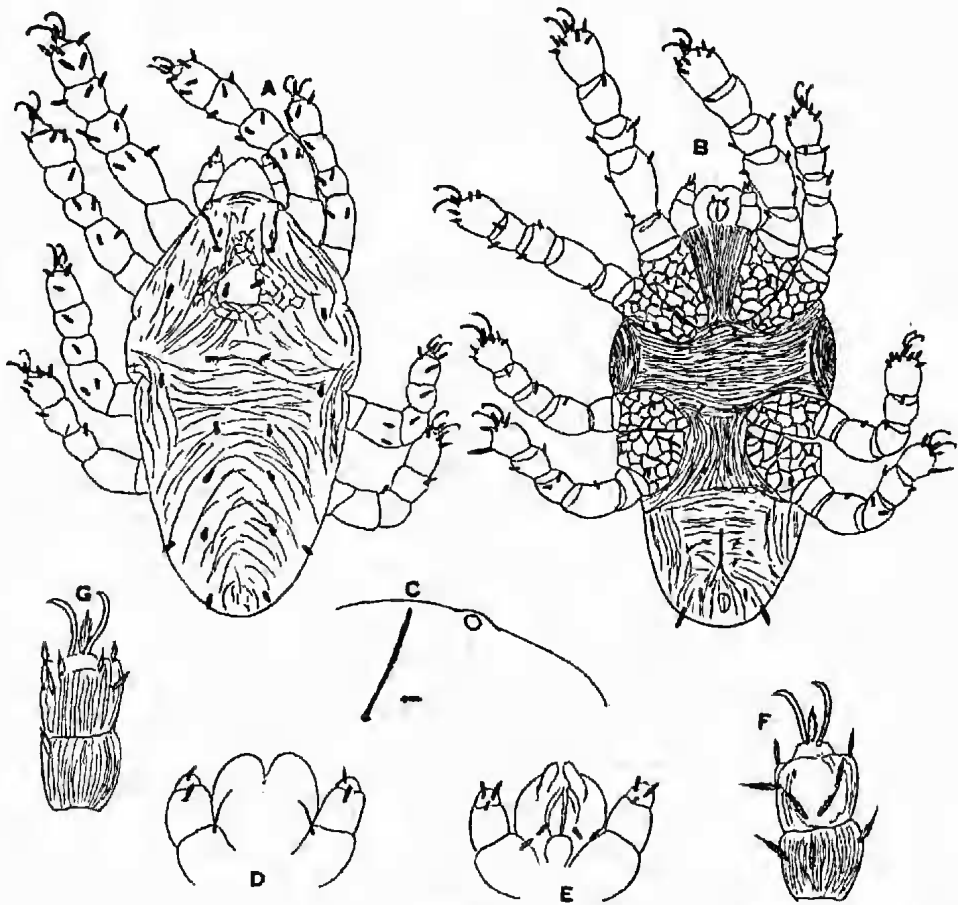
Boydaiia derricki sp. n.

Description—Female. Shape elongate ovoid, widest between coxae II and III. Length of idiosoma 780μ , width 520μ . Gnathosoma visible from above 104μ long. Dorsum with longitudinal and transverse punctate striations as figured, with 20 short stout ciliated or bush-like setae, arranged one small one 5μ long in front of each sensilla, then two rows of 4 to 8μ long, two rows of 2 and a row of 4 to 8μ long, and then 2, 11μ long. Sensillae filamentous, but ciliated, appearing slightly thicker distally, 28μ long. On the anterior margin in front of each sensilla is a small but distinct lens. Palpi 3-segmented, all segments free from gnathosoma; the basal segment dorsally on the inside carries a long slender apparently shortly ciliated seta, on the second and third segment a short bushy seta; ventrally the third segment carries three short bushy setae. The basal segment of the chelicerae basally bears two short bushy setae and the apical segment appears as a lobe-like structure without teeth. Venter: striate punctate; coxae in two groups widely separated; with strong subcuticular reticulations; coxae I with two short, 5μ bushy setae, II - IV with one such seta. Between coxae II a pair of short 5μ bushy setae and a similar pair between coxae III and between coxae IV. Genital slit 48μ long, forked posteriorly and flanked on each side by three setae 5μ long; on each side of anus a seta 8μ long, and posteriorly a pair of setae 12μ long. Legs stout, length including coxae but excluding claws, I 520μ , II 480μ , III 430μ , IV 455μ , furnished with short bushy setae, which on tarsi reach 14μ in length; claws strong and curved to 52μ long, with a bushy hair-like pulvillus in between; segments of legs longitudinally finely striate punctate.

Locality and Host—One specimen collected on *Rattus assimilis*, Mount Glorious, Queensland, 6 August 1951 by Dr. E. H. Derrick.

Remarks—In the presence of distinct eyes and striated cuticle, this species is close to *B. striatus* (Crossley). It differs, however, in its more elongate shape, in having only three setae on each side of the genital opening, in lacking the fine simple setae on the legs as figured by Crossley for *striatus* and in relatively stouter legs.

*South Australian Museum.



Boydaia derricki n. sp.

A, dorsal view; B, ventral view; C, left eye and sensilla; D, dorsal view of gnathosoma and palps; E, ventral view of gnathosoma and palps; F, dorsal view of tibia and tarsus of leg I; G, ventral view of tibia and tarsus of leg I.

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